

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE
IN 3.5(c)

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DIST 19 DECEMBER 1967

COUNTRY NORTH VIETNAM

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SUBJ

1. RUMOR IN HANOI THAT HO CHI MINH IS ILL
2. POLICY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HANOI AND NATIONAL
LIBERATION FRONT, ACCORDING TO FRONT REPRESENTATIVE
IN HANOI

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RUMORS IN HANOI ABOUT HO CHI MINH BEING
ILL WERE STILL CURRENT. THE NORTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT HAS
NEVER OFFICIALLY STATED THAT HO IS ILL, HOWEVER.

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HO APPEARED VERY TIRED AND PALE WHEN HE MADE HIS LAST
PUBLIC APPEARANCE ON 30 AUGUST 1967. THIS CONTRASTED WITH HO'S

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FIT AND HEALTHY APPEARANCE IN 1966.

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BECAUSE OF HO'S HEALTH AND AGE, HO NEEDS TREATMENT OUTSIDE HANOI FOR HIS ILLNESS. RUMORS CIRCULATE IN HANOI THAT CHINESE DOCTORS ARE TREATING HO. THESE ALSO TIE IN WITH EARLIER RUMORS THAT HO HAD DECLINED TO GO TO MOSCOW TO RECEIVE THE LENIN PEACE PRIZE BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO OFFEND THE CHINESE.

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2. IN DECEMBER 1967, NGUYEN VAN TIEN, CHIEF OF

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THE NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (NLF), TOLD THAT THE NLF HAD THREE MAJOR POLICY

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DIFFERENCES WITH THE HANOI GOVERNMENT: COMMENT: TIEN'S REMARKS

SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS BEING CALCULATED TO PROMOTE NLF SVN OBJECTIVES.)

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ACCORDING TO TIEN, THE POLICY DIFFERENCES WERE:

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A. THE NLF PLANNED TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL MAJOR RELIGIOUS AND INTELLECTUAL GROUPS IN ANY GOVERNMENT WHICH THEY FORMED IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THIS GOVERNMENT WOULD BE MORE DEMOCRATIC THAN THAT DESIRED BY NORTH VIETNAM WHICH WANTED TO ESTABLISH A DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

B. THE NLF PLANNED TO PERMIT NATIONAL CAPITALISTS AND PRIVATE LANDHOLDERS TO CONTINUE TO OPERATE IN THE ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK IF THE NLF ACHIEVED POWER. NORTH VIETNAM WANTED AN ECONOMY BASED SOLELY ON MORE ADVANCED COMMUNIST ECONOMIC PRINCIPLES.

C. IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE NLF WANTED PEACE, INDEPENDENCE, AND NEUTRALITY BUT NORTH VIETNAM WANTED A UNIFIED VIETNAM ALIGNED WITH THE SOCIALIST BLOC.

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